

Message Text

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ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 OES-07 DLOS-09 EB-08 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 ARA-14 PRS-01 PA-02 USIA-15
L-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 /081 R

DRAFTED BY COMM/NOAA/NMFS: D WEIDNER:JJ
APPROVED BY OES/OFA/FA: L L SNEAD
COMM/NOAA/NMFS: M KRAVANJA
STATE-EA/ANP: T WAJDA 632-9690
STATE-OES/OFA

-----029706 091410Z /41

O 091356Z SEP 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL PERTH IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 215917

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EFIS, AU, CU

SUBJECT: U.S. LOBSTER IMPORTS

REF: PERTH 282, SEPTEMBER 2, 1977

1. THE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE (NMFS), NOAA, COMMERCE IS UNABLE TO PROVIDE AMCONSULATE DETAILED U.S. LOBSTER DATA BY CABLE BECAUSE OF THE VOLUME INVOLVED. COMPLETE DETAILS ARE BEING POUCHED, BUT AS DATA WERE REQUESTED BY SEPTEMBER 8, MAJOR EXPORTING COUNTRIES AND COMMODITIES ARE GIVEN BELOW. NMFS IS UNABLE TO SUPPLY TOTALS ON SPINY OR ROCK LOBSTER SEPARATELY ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE. EXCEPT FOR SHIPMENTS OF AMERICAN OR NORTHERN LOBSTER FROM CANADA, HOWEVER, MOST U.S. LOBSTER IMPORTS ARE SPINY LOBSTER.

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TABLE 1.--U.S. LOBSTER (NORTHERN AND SPINY) IMPORTS, 1976; IN METRIC TONS (PRODUCT WEIGHT) AND MILLION U.S. DOLLARS.

COMMODITY	COUNTRY	QUANTITY	VALUE
LIVE	CANADA	6,761.0	32.1

LIVE	OTHER	160.6	0.5
FROZEN TAILS	AUSTRALIA	4,222.5	50.0
FROZEN TAILS	SOUTH AFRICA	2,714.0	34.6
FROZEN TAILS	BRAZIL	2,217.0	23.7
FROZEN TAILS	NEW ZEALAND	1,187.4	13.0
FROZEN TAILS	OTHER	5,184.2	42.6
FROZEN, OTHER	ALL COUNTRIES	4,959.2	38.5
CANNED	ALL COUNTRIES	1,299.6	13.9
TOTAL	ALL COUNTRIES	28,705.5	248.9

NOTE: TOTAL DOES NOT INCLUDE SMALL QUANTITY OF LOBSTER IMPORTED FROM CHILE AS U.S. IMPORT STATISTICS FOR THAT COUNTRY DO NOT SEPARATE LOBSTER AND LANGOSTINO.

SOURCE: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE. BUREAU OF THE CENSUS.

2. THE U.S. DID IMPORT SPINY LOBSTER FROM CUBA. THESE IMPORTS TOTALED 1,100 TONS OF LOBSTER TAILS (PRODUCT WEIGHT) IN 1960.

3. CUBA CAUGHT 10,100 TONS OF LOBSTER (LIVE WEIGHT) IN 1974. DATA ON CUBA'S SPINY LOBSTER FISHERY IS NOT AVAILABLE FOR MORE RECENT YEARS. NMFS ESTIMATES THAT THE CUBAN 1976 LOBSTER CATCH WAS PROBABLY LESS THAN UNCLASSIFIED

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10,000 T LIVE WEIGHT. AS A RESULT, CUBAN EXPORTS OF FROZEN TAILS PROBABLY DID NOT EXCEED 3,300 T. IF TRADE WITH CUBA WERE RESUMED, IT IS LIKELY THAT A CONSIDERABLE PORTION OF CUBAN EXPORTS WOULD BE SHIPPED TO THE UNITED STATES. HOWEVER, NO ESTIMATES ARE AVAILABLE ON POTENTIAL U.S. IMPORTS. IT WOULD NOT BE UNREASONABLE TO EXPECT THAT ABOUT HALF OF THE CUBAN CATCH COULD BE EXPORTED TO THE U.S. NMFS BELIEVES THAT SUCH SHIPMENTS WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECT THE ALREADY DEPRESSED MARKET FOR WARM-WATER LOBSTER TAILS. NMFS IS ALSO POUCHING POST "SHELLFISH MARKET REVIEW AND OUTLOOK" WITH DETAILS ON THE U.S. MARKET FOR LOBSTER.

4. NMFS HAS BEGUN PRELIMINARY RESEARCH ON THE AUSTRALIAN LOBSTER FISHERY AND HAS NOTICED A REFERENCE TO SMALL CATCHES OF "BAY" LOBSTER. COULD THE POST SUPPLY THE SCIENTIFIC NAME FOR THIS SPECIES? IS IT ALSO REFERRED TO AS "LOCUST" LOBSTER? VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: IMPORTS, DATA, SHELLFISH
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: D WEIDNER:JJ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770327-0259
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770980/aaaacpmf.tel
Line Count: 113
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 693b9849-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN COME
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 PERTH 282
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1329392
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S. LOBSTER IMPORTS
TAGS: EFIS, AU, CU, US
To: PERTH
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/693b9849-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009